

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Will band fit into a rigorous academic schedule?**

Yes! A student's four-year plan can accommodate band all four years while still taking on a rigorous schedule of classes. A majority of band students take upper-level classes (AP and Dual Credit) and still find time to commit to One or more extracurricular activities. It is very common for the band program to feature many of the top 10 students in the school.

### **Band will not fit into my schedule. What do I do?**

The first thing you should do is talk to one of our AWESOME counselors at Lee! They are the ones that will create the student's schedule. There is not a situation that exists that prohibits a student from taking band if that is their desire! From time to time, because of a student's academic drive and the rigor that comes with their class load, some classes may have to be shifted. Communication is KEY! Please let us know if you need any help in this matter.

### **How good do I have to be to be in the band?**

All of our bands are organized by musical ability and not by grade, therefore all students are welcome into the band program! If you have not been in band before, talk to Mr. Poulin before signing up for the first time.

### **Will band and time commitment adversely affect my grades?**

Whether you are in activities or not, good grades are dependent upon being a hard worker. If you are conscientious and organized, band or any other activity will not adversely affect your grades. The band's schedules have been carefully developed to work with the school's academic demands. In fact, many of the school's top scholars are in band. We have had numerous students achieve high scores on the ACT and have had several top 10 and Valedictorians in our program.

### **Do I have to participate in Marching Band?**

The short answer is yes. It is part of the TEA requirements for HS band that students be members of the marching band. We believe that a well-rounded music education includes marching band in the fall. The teamwork, discipline, time management, and camaraderie that come with being in a competitive high school marching band is second to none. Sometimes for school athletics with a direct conflict, or health related reasons, we make exceptions to allow students to participate in the concert bands only.

### **Is it possible to earn college scholarships for band?**

Many of our graduates receive some sort of scholarship while they participate in college band programs. These awards vary depending upon the school and major, but even without being a music major, you can receive scholarships to participate in college bands.

### **Does marching band take A LOT of time?**

Marching band is a considerable time commitment, but it is typical of any other sports team or extracurricular. There are a few rehearsals and "band camp" over the summer. Our 2022 Fall rehearsal schedule looked like this:

- Mondays, Tuesday, Thursday from 3:45-6:00pm
- Friday Night Football Games
- Contest season goes from late September to the first weekend in November and are all on Saturdays.

\* Just a reminder - while this schedule seems like a big commitment, marching band season ends the first weekend in November, so it is only 3 months.

**NOTE: We have already started adding summer and Fall events on the calendar for 2023.**

### **What is “Band Camp”?**

Band camp is simply a series of full day marching band rehearsals leading up to the beginning of the school year. The rehearsals take place at Lee (or occasionally at Stallworth stadium) and are crucial for the initial progress of the marching band show.

See the **“Spring and Summer schedule”** handout for more details.

### **If I participate in marching band, does that mean I cannot be involved in other activities?**

Absolutely not! We want our students to have a well-rounded education when they graduate from REL. We have many students in the band that are involved in athletics, JROTC, boy scouts, girl scouts, club organizations, church, and other activities. Sometimes the time commitments of these activities will overlap, but with proper communication in advance, we will be flexible with the schedule and allow students to arrive late, leave early, or in some cases, miss rehearsals for their other commitments. Again, communication is KEY!

### **What kinds of trips does the band take?**

The marching band participates in numerous local and regional competitions during the season. Occasionally, the program will venture out to competitions further away that require overnight accommodations. We also march in the Baytown Christmas parade every year. Once every 4 years we take a multi-day trip to Florida to Disney/Universal over spring break. That trip will next take place in the spring of 2026. The concert bands also participate in regional competitions and festivals every 1-2 years.

### **Does Color Guard follow the same schedule as the band?**

In general, yes. Color Guard participates in summer band camp and all marching band rehearsals, and within that schedule they will conduct their own breakout sessions to practice specific skills. As an integral part of the band’s competitive show, color guard members rehearse the show with the band and participate in all football halftime performances, band competitions, band trips, community events, and parades. Charlie Michalsky is the Color Guard Director and travels with guard members to these events. She works closely with the band staff regarding schedule, choreography, and planning the guard’s role in the competitive show.

### **Do I have to be enrolled in a band class to participate in Color Guard or Winter Guard?**

Color Guard (fall) and Winter Guard (winter/spring) are separate classes from the regular band classes. Band members are welcome to join the colorguard but must take the additional class along with their band class. Our main goal is to recruit from outside the band for colorguard members. So if you know anyone that doesn’t play an instrument that would like to be in band, tell them to come check out colorguard.

### **Do I have to audition for Color Guard and/or Winter Guard? Is there an opportunity to learn the required skills?**

Yes and yes! The guard program will host clinics in the spring before auditions for fall membership, allowing students new to guard to learn and practice their skills. Keep in mind, no one comes to colorguard with any prior experience. Everyone is brand new to it at first, so be patient with yourself, it will all work out OK. For more detailed information contact Charlie Michalsky, Guard Director, at [cmichalsky910@gmail.com](mailto:cmichalsky910@gmail.com).

### **More questions?**

Go to [www.thefamouroberteleeband.com](http://www.thefamouroberteleeband.com) or contact us at the band hall. [Robert.poulin@gccisd.net](mailto:Robert.poulin@gccisd.net)